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Message Text

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67
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01

SAM-01 IO-13 /074 W
---------- 051337
R 131843Z APR 76
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8094
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EC, GW, PFOR
SUBJECT: EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: FRG POSITION ON DIRECT ELECTIONS

REF: BONN 6011

1. FONOFF STATE MINISTER WISCHNEWSKI, IN HIS PERSONAL CAPACITY AS CHAIRMAN OF THE SPD COMMISSION FOR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, HAS PROPOSED THAT THE CONTROVERSY OVER THE ALLOCATION OF SEATS IN THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT BE SOLVED BY DOUBLING THE NUMBER OF SEATS EACH NATION CURRENTLY HAS, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF LUXEMBOURG, WHICH WOULD RETAIN ITS PRESENT SIX SEATS. THE RESULT WOULD BE A PARLIAMENT ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES:

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BELGIUM 28

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DENMARK	20
FRG	72
FRANCE	72
IRELAND	20
ITALY	72
LUXEMBOURG	6
NETHERLANDS	28
UNITED KING-DOM	72
TOTAL	390

2. WISCHNEWSKI ALSO NOTED THAT THE SIX ADDITIONAL SEATS NOT GIVEN LUXEMBOURG COULD THEN BE DISTRIBUTED AMONG THE FRG, UK, FRANCE AND ITALY IN A NUMBER OF VARIOUS WAYS. THE VIRTUE OF THIS PROPOSAL, ACCORDING TO ITS AUTHOR, IS THAT IT TAKES CARE OF THE OBJECTIONS OF ITALY, THE UK, AND DENMARK TO GISCARD'S PROPOSAL AT LUXEMBOURG WHILE RETAINING THE ESSENTIAL PRINCIPLE BEHINDHIS PROPOSAL (THAT THE PRESENT RATIO OF SEATS REMAIN UNCHANGED).

3. WISCHNEWSKI FURTHER ADVOCATES THAT THE FRG REMAIN FLEXIBLE ON THE NUMBER OF SEATS AND HOW THEY ARE ALLOCATED. HOWEVER, THIS FLEXIBILITY SHOULD BE LINKED WITH THE PRINCIPLE OF INCREASED PROPORTIONALITY IN THE ELECTION OF THE SECOND PARLIAMENT.

4. THE FONOFF HAS TOLD US THAT WISCHNEWSKI'S PROPOSAL IS NOT RPT NOT THE OFFICIAL FRG POSITION. THIS POSITION REMAINS SUPPORT FOR THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT PLAN OF 355 SEATS. FURTHERMORE, THE HOLDING OF DIRECT ELECTIONS IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN ANY SPECIFIC ALLOCATION OF SEATS. THE FONOFF CONFIRMED THAT THE FRG REMAINS FLEXIBLE ON THE ALLOCATION OF SEATS, BUT STILL WANTS INCREASED PROPORTIONALITY IN THE SECOND ELECTION. THE CHIEF DEFECT IN THE WISCHNEWSKI PROPOSAL IS THE VIOLENCE IT DOES TO THE PRINCIPLE OF PROPORTIONALITY.

5. COMMENT: WE UNDOUBTEDLY WILL BE SEEING A NUMBER OF INGENIOUS PROPOSALS FOR ALLOCATION OF SEATS IN THE PAR-
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LIAMENT. THE CONFUSION IN THIS FIELD IS EVIDENT WHEN A PROPOSAL OF THE NUMBER FOUR MAN IN THE FONOFF IS IMMEDIATELY CRITICIZED BY THE WORKING LEVEL IN HIS OWN MINISTRY.
HILLENBRAND

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NNN

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